









## THE MODERN HERO.

By H. T. TUCKERMAN.

"The hero was only a poor old man."—MURDO.

The hero is passing on the wall.

No laurel crowns are worn.

And every knightly strain is humbled

In meek, camp and grove.

No manly boast now flows from the spear,

No strong arm is raised to the brand,

To indicate the rightful cause,

Or to oppress the hand.

The minstrel's pilgrimage has ceased,

Chivalric days are o'er,

And every sturdy hero noblesse

To Palestine no more.

What battle field with courage now

Shall ardent minds inspire?

Upon what shrine can youth devote

Its wild yet hallowed fire?

Must the bold hero ignominy pine

Far from heroic strife,

And win no trophies to adorn

This cold and feeble life?

Is there no guerdon for the brave?

No warfare for the free?

No valor in the redress?

For men no victory?

Shall glad and earnest purpose die,

And knightly deeds be vain?

Glory no more be pursued to life

By Love's ennobling flame?

Forbid it every pulse that leaps

At beauty's kindling smile,

Forbid it all the glowing dreams

That youthful hearts beguile?

By the clear spell that morning weaves

By noontide's stirring glare,

By the vast seas, and mighty woods,

And midnight's solemn air?

By Nature's deep and constant tones,

Tears that are born of song,

And thrill that eloquence awakes

In every human throng?

By childhood's hopes and dreams serene,

And woman's cherished name,

Let no heroic deed be vain?

Let no noble heart be cold?

Let no bright eye be dim?

Let no fair cheek be pale?

Let no blood-stained gown

Be laid aside in vain?

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